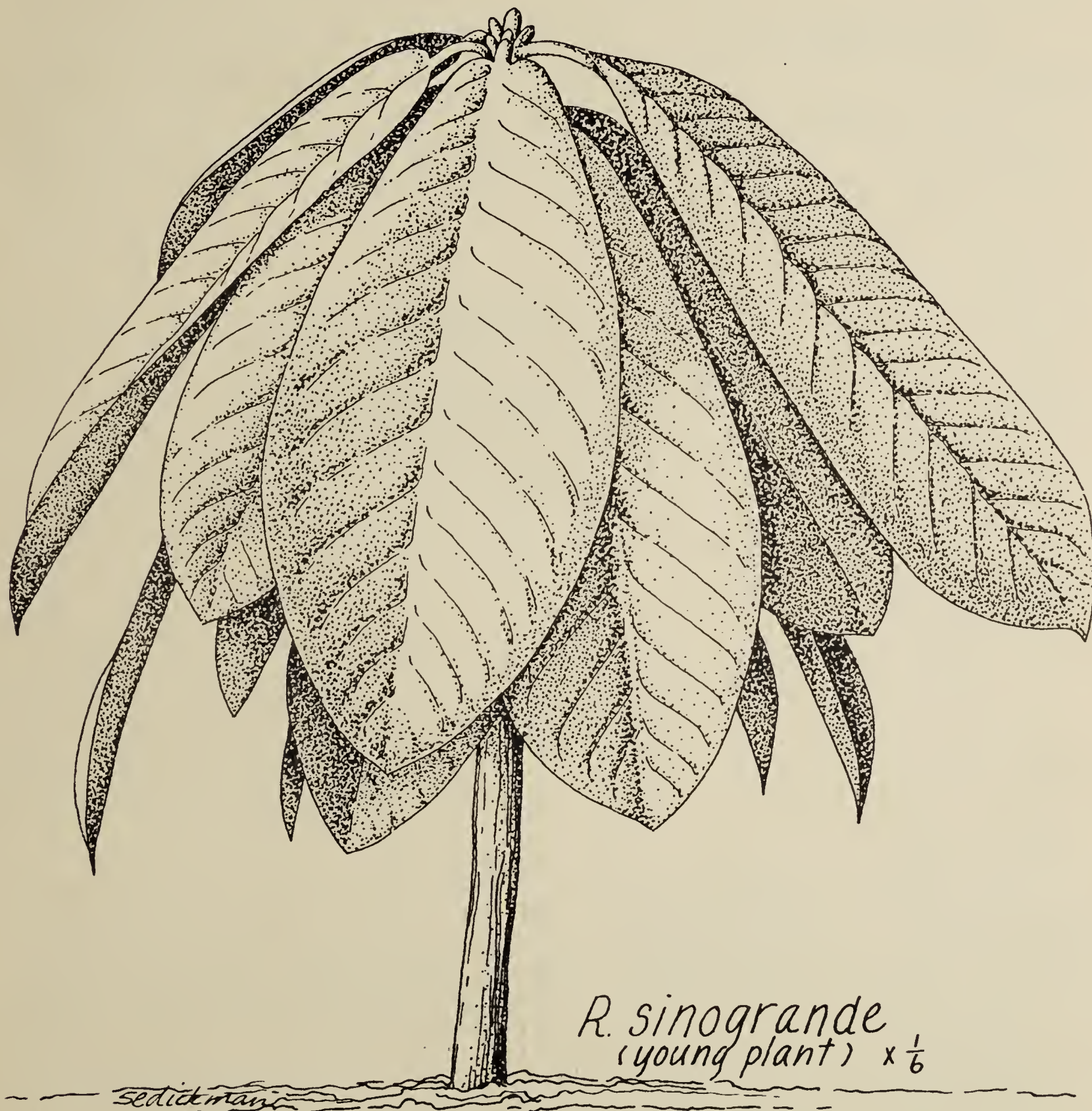


Horticulture Northwest

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



Volume 8

Number 1

Spring 1981

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Sallie D. Allen, Editor

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Cover Illustration:
Rhododendron sinogrande
Sally E. Dickman



RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

Kendall W. Gambrill, The Rhododendron Species Foundation

Rhododendrons are well established as an appropriate part of the Northwest landscape. Our mild damp climate in the region west of the Cascades is one of the world's most conducive for the cultivation of these ornamentals. And, unlike the other great center in Britain and the more limited ones in New Zealand and Australia, our American one even contains indigenous species. However, by nature's order mankind and rhododendrons tend not to cohabitate. The greatest numbers of these plants flourish in forbidding realms on the fringe of, if not beyond, those of human habitation - particularly the rugged, monsoon soaked and snow engulfed mountains at the "roof of the world" spreading from the north of India east into China. For many gardeners around the world, the best access to rhododendrons is through hybrids which have been developed to tolerate climates which are so different from those of rhododendron homelands. Fortunately, Northwesterners need not endure such limitations; we can avail ourselves of much of the diverse natural wealth of the genus.

However, the suitability of the climate and at least a partial inheritance of the British gardening tradition have not been sufficient in themselves to provide for all plants to be used to their fullest potential here. The relative infancy of ornamental horticulture in western America and the rather recent introduction of wild rhododendrons into cultivation, many being first grown in the Western world only in this century, resulted in a dearth of information and an absence of convenient sources of plants in the past. By the time interest in rhododendrons burgeoned, as evidenced by the formation of the American Rhododendron Society and the Pacific Rhododendron Society in the late 1940's and early 50's, the Asian habitat of many of the most ornamental species was closed to further exploration and plant collecting. Prospective growers were forced to turn to England and Scotland where many plants were in cultivation and much knowledge had been accumulated as a result of earlier sponsorship of plant hunting expeditions. Americans also sought the limited specimens and supplies already established here. Yet, into the 60's, the shortage of material continued, and the confusion over the identity of what was here worsened. And there was well-founded and increasing concern that the British source would diminish as collections aged and gardens changed ownership.

Rhododendrons there were, indeed. But the great majority were hybrids, especially the stalwarts of commerce developed in Europe with proven performance and popular appeal - even if of little personality. The stolid mid-nineteenth century creations of the English nursery trade, with buxom trusses, almost inevitably tinged lavender if not unabashedly so, seated on unmoving mounds of most respectable foliage, were the first to be widely distributed in this country, including the Northwest, and appropriately so, since a large portion of their ancestry was American, mainly the southern Appalachian *Rhododendron catawbiense*. For those who searched a bit, there were the turn-of-the-century and later English and Dutch hybrids, of more flamboyant Edwardian vogue, particularly in the larger size of flowers of more delicate, if usually fading, shades of pink. And the persevering and either wealthy

or hopelessly infatuated might locate the brilliant reds, the pastel creams, called yellow, and the smaller leaved and flowered clear lavenders, called blue, developed largely by amateur British hybridists making first use of the newly introduced Chinese rhododendrons. Uninitiated and indiscriminate taste could be satisfied adequately and worthily by the economics and circumstances of the nursery industry and individual endeavor. But unless we were to resign ourselves to the ordinary modicum, to an interminable hamburger-helpered diet, a different kind of effort would have to be made to furnish the more specialized items whose use might not be so general, yet held the potential to more precisely and more thoroughly satisfy those who would discern.

A small band of those who did, joined forces in 1964 to launch a new organization solely devoted to species rhododendrons. The clear and rather narrow goal of this new Rhododendron Species Foundation would be to establish a comprehensive and verified collection of the world's natural rhododendrons and to assure their preservation and availability. With neither a permanent home nor assured funding, but very certain of purpose, the new organization set about gathering the plants essential to its being. The immediate priority was to acquire from Britain those representatives of the species authenticated by taxonomists and evaluated by dedicated plantmen. Only vegetative propagation would produce an exact duplicate of the desired specimen, but no plant produced in Europe could be brought into the United States unless devoid of soil, and all material including scions was subjected to what was apt to be a lethal sanitizing upon arrival. In the face of this situation, a highly successful and mutually beneficial arrangement was made with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, by which the RSF located and saw to the shipment of desirable scions from Britain directly to the Canadian city, where the skilled, experienced staff of the UBC Physical Plant Nursery either grafted them or stuck them as cuttings. When well-established, one plant of each selection would be retained for a UBC rhododendron collection while the others, with little difficulty, would be brought across the border to the temporary RSF site in Oregon, at first near Eugene and then near Salem. During these first ten years, the Foundation also added to its collection from domestic sources. Some were plants of wild origin either from this country or other accessible habitats in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Sikkim, Nepal and Turkey. Others were plants previously established in this country, which had become highly regarded by the pioneering growers. Benefiting from the nursery facilities and experienced hand of P.H. (Jock) Brydon, while the collection was under his stewardship, the acquisitions were further increased and the distribution of plants began. But without a permanent home, the endeavor's situation remained precarious.

When arrangements were made in 1974 for the Weyerhaeuser Company to furnish a site for the Foundation at their Federal Way Corporate Headquarters, the event was much more than another change of location. For, with the 23-acre site came a greenhouse, lathhouse and prepared nursery area, which furnished not only the shelter and conditions for housing the collection, but also the facilities to embark upon an ambitious program of propagation and collection development with the first full-time employee. The result is the production of nearly ten thousand plants annually. More significant is the development of procedures to propagate almost every species by rooted cuttings, thus having the certitude of vegetative, rather

than seed propagation, by a method much less costly and cumbersome, and generally less unsatisfactory, than grafting. This output provides the plants for the Foundation's permanent collection. It also supplies quantities of species, many hitherto rare or altogether unavailable, for the annual distribution to members and for surplus sales to springtime visitors.

The site included two other features which tended to reshape the organization. First was space sufficient for the collection to be housed in a display garden rather than simply maintained in a minimum survival state. There was room for multiple representatives of accessions, with emphasis on the more decorative not requiring a sacrifice in comprehensiveness. The collection could be studied by scientists and perused by specialist, yet discovered and enjoyed by the public. Though development of the garden according to the recently adopted Master Plan is just beginning, the provisional plantings within the garden area have furnished a colorful display for those who, on the designated open days, have visited in increasing numbers since 1977.

The access which this collection merits is provided only in part by holding open house on certain days during the peak bloom period. The important, albeit rather small, segment of the populace with an intense interest in rhododendron species merits a closer association. And it is the provision of office space as the third component of the Weyerhaeuser site which gave the RSF the space to service a membership, and so to initiate a membership program in 1976. The Foundation solicits all with an interest in these plants and the success of the organization to join. As members they can visit the garden on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. And they can use the Reference Library housed in the office area. As with the plants, the library is to be a comprehensive collection containing all English language literature on rhododendrons, including books, periodicals, articles, and even unpublished material if it can be located. Foreign language works and those on associated genera, habitats, gardens, and gardening will be found here also. The RSF publishes a quarterly newsletter for its members and holds an annual meeting featuring an informative speaker, among them Mr. John Bond, Keeper of the Gardens, Windsor Great Park, and Mr. H. H. Davidian, long the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden's chief rhododendron taxonomist. And it is to the members that the Foundation makes its nursery production available through the annual distribution. The lengthening list of items now includes rarities like *Rhododendron pronum*, *proteoides*, and *lacteum* and such gems of the genus as *R. cephalanthum* var. *crebreflorum*, *chryseum*, *tsariense*, and *recurvoides*.

In moving to the Federal Way site, the RSF gained a further asset - permanence. Though intangible, it has been invaluable in reassuring donors of plant material and financial assistance that this is a viable enterprise. To the collection have come accessions from gardens on both the east and west coasts of America, from public and private collections throughout the British Isles, and from Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands. This growth has taken the Foundation far toward its goal of comprehensiveness. The 1300 clones already established represent 475 species and comprise a total of 22,000 plants. There is quality as well; nearly a third of the accessions carry collector's numbers, and many have received awards in Britain and

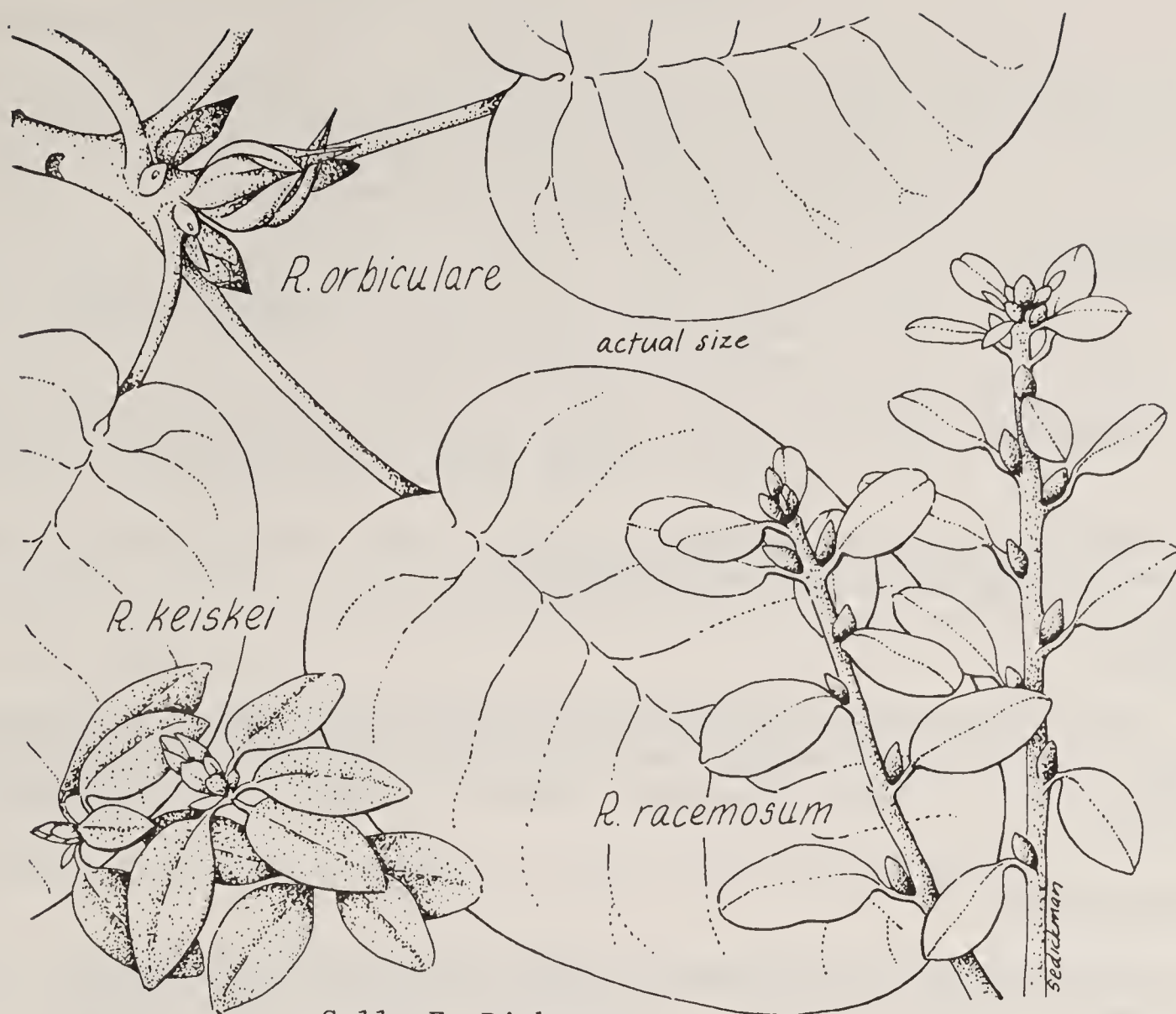
America. As a measure of its thoroughness, the Foundation increasingly furnished plants and cuttings to other botanical gardens here and abroad. The pattern of steady growth and expanded activity has encouraged philanthropic institutions and individuals to regard the Species Foundation favorably, as an effort to furnish one small portion of mankind's enrichment - and likely to succeed in doing so if it receives the financial aid upon which specialized service organizations depend. Since the Foundation has an annual budget, \$140,000 in 1981, funded only in part by membership and plant sales income, it must continue to locate and meet with the approval of grantors.

While the RSF has a national and worldwide role as a store of rhododendrons and a source of information and plants, its influence should be especially strong in the Northwest. Since the climate and soil are the most suitable to the cultivation of rhododendrons in this country, it is here that the greatest number of these newly established plants can be grown. While many of the most appealing attributes of the genus, such as size and detail of leaves, fragrance of flower and foliage, and an array of flower colors and shapes, must be compromised in the form of hybrids, if they are to be had at all in regions of severer climate, the wealth of plant expression found in rhododendrons is exploitable here. Once available, it is the Northwest which will be able to savor these exotics to the fullest.

The Foundation also will have a great impact here by virtue of its proximity. The general public of this region will be able to visit the garden either almost by accident as a mere spring outing or at the urging of a friend or an organizational activity. Since these more unusual rhododendrons can be experienced as living plants, the measure of their existence will be a cherished picture, a happy memory rather than an unpronounceable name of esoteric aura. And any newly sparked desire to grow what has been seen can be sated immediately through the purchase of plants offered for sale in the garden. Among RSF members, those at convenient distance within the northwest will be able to visit them most frequently and make best use of the library and any study courses offered.

The result of the Foundation's influence should be to make rhododendrons an even more prevalent part of the Northwest landscape. And if the inherent potential of these plants is realized, they will be used with more precision and sensitivity. It should be as inadequate for a plan to specify "rhododendron" as it would be for it to merely state "plant." The popular conception should be more than an evergreen ornamental with bright globes of red, pink, purple, etc., which too often outgrows its space.

The potential is for plants which will perform more satisfactorily and in ways not considered generally. Species such as *Rhododendron arboreum* and *fortunei* should be used where a small evergreen tree would be appropriate as in plazas, courtyards, or along borders - much the way *Magnolia grandiflora* is used in warmer climes. In more sheltered and secluded spots, such as interior courts, entry areas, or garden alcoves, where emphatic character will not clash nor be lost, the large-leaved species (*R. hodgsonii*, *rex*, *macabeum*, *falconeri*, or even *sinogrande*) or other large and distinct types, bold in leaf and/or trunk and in flower (*R. barbatum*, *strigillosum*, *calophyllum*, and *uvarifolium*) will provide the interest to which the area is conducive. In the role that lilacs play in the Northeast and crape myrtles in



Sally E. Dickman

the South could be a number of large shrub size species of reliable and massive color display including *R. fargesii*, *lutescens*, *davidsonianum*, *yunnanense*, *augustinii*, and *rubiginosum*. In the sites for which rhododendrons often are prescribed *R. hyperythrum*, *yakushmanum*, *gymnocarpum*, *insigne*, and *anhweiense* are apt to withstand better the exposure and certainly would maintain a neater, more restrained habit than many of the hybrids frequently used. *R. williamsianum*, *wasonii*, and *chamaethomsonii* would furnish distinguished groundcovers of two feet or so in north-facing or otherwise somewhat protected areas, while a lower cover of smaller scale could be had with *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy,' *forrestii*, *keleticum*, *hanceanum* 'Nanum,' *cephalanthum* var. *crebreflorum* and *pemakoense*. And there are many which so well express the delight and charm unique to rhododendrons in flower and foliage distinct from any other.

For those who collect species, the Foundation is a dream come true. No longer must their interest be plagued with such frustration. The annual distribution now lists over 200 species, and there is promise of more to come. For scientists the creation and preservation of this collection assures a store of research material. For gardeners there is the opportunity to see and learn about new plants and to enrich their surroundings with them. And for the Northwest, there is the potential to increase its regional character through full use of a naturally suited component.

PEST PROFILES

GYPSY MOTH

Porthetria dispar

Sharon J. Collman, Seattle, Washington

Host Plants:

Preferred hosts: oak, apple, alder, aspen, basswood, hawthorn, willow, and gray and river birch.

Acceptable hosts: birches, beech, cherry, black gum, hemlock, hickory, hornbeam, larch, maple, pine, sassafras, and spruce.

The host list includes 400 species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous materials, including conifers and grasses.

Damage:

The larvae are leaf feeders and will defoliate trees. Defoliation will weaken healthy trees leaving them vulnerable to attack by woodboring insects, bark beetles, or fungus diseases. Repeated defoliation will kill the trees outright.

Distribution:

Gypsy moth adult males are attracted to females by a chemical scent emitted by the female adults. By synthesizing the female scent (or pheromone) and placing small amounts on a rubber cork, the males are lured into a sticky-coated trap. In this way entomologists have been able to detect the presence and severity of infestations. From one to over one hundred males have been trapped in the following nine locations:

Tukwila, Normandy Park, White Center, Lincoln Park, Ravenna Park, Washington Park Arboretum, Mercer Island, Marymoor Park in King County, and Vancouver, Washington.

Life Cycle:

Since Gypsy Moth is new to the area, the details of its life cycle are only partially filled in. Adult males have been taken in late summer (late July-early September). Overwintering egg masses have been found. It is assumed the larvae will hatch in early May, but it is not known how the warm winter will affect hatching. (No living larvae have been found yet.) The larvae should pupate in July.

Methods of Control:

Do not attempt to control this pest. Please learn to recognize gypsy moth and report any suspicious sitings to the Plant Industry Division of the Washington State Department of Agriculture - (206)872-6480 in Kent. Call (206)344-2686 (in King County) and ask for the Gypsy Moth bulletin. It has color pictures to help you recognize this pest.

Interagency Efforts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the designated leader of the Gypsy Moth eradication program. By placing traps at calculated intervals (as determined by earlier research) they hope to: 1) capture adult males before they mate with females, and 2) flood the area with the scent of females so that males which are not trapped won't be able to tell where the scent is coming from and thus won't find the females (called confusing the males) (and the reader?).

Trapping, confusing, searching parks and properties for larvae and spot treating when larvae are found, or in "hot" areas (heaviest infestations: 20 to more than 100 moths), will all be a part of the total eradication program.

The Plant Industry Division of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (located in Kent), in cooperation with APHIS, will conduct all the field operations, such as, placing and monitoring traps, ground searches, identifying suspicious larvae, etc.

Cooperative Extension is involved in the educational and supportive role.

What Can You Do?

Whether you live in an infested area or not, you can help.

1. Learn to recognize Gypsy Moth.
(request the bulletin PA 1006 by contacting the cooperative Extension office in your county)
2. Alert neighbors and friends - especially in infested areas.
3. Look for egg masses (winter) or signs of empty egg masses, pupa shells, or shed larvae skins (anytime), or caterpillars (from April through June).
4. Keep informed. Ask the papers to keep you informed.
5. Report any suspicious signs to the Plant Industry Division (206) 872-6480 (Kent, WA).

Why bother?

According to an article by Harold Faber, (N.Y. Times News Service, October, 1980) "Gypsy Moths did more damage than ever before in the Northeast this year, defoliating trees covering 5.1 million acres from Maine to Maryland...."

He gives, as one of many examples, that New Hampshire jumped from 5,980 acres defoliated in 1979 to 183,999 acres in 1980.

Gypsy Moths are known to accept over 400 plant species as food. Some of those may be growing in your yard.

Already Gypsy Moth is costing us many dollars to trap and curb its spread. Quarantines restricting the movement of certain items such as logs with bark, some nursery stock and recreational vehicles may be necessary. In addition to the inconvenience, it will take money to inspect and fumigate shipments.

When you are in your gardens, other's gardens, and in parks, keep your eyes open. By being informed you can help spot Gypsy Moth and early detection can retard the spread.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

Center for Urban Horticulture, AR-10

February 9, 1981

Mrs. Hugh H. Hotson
1562 Parkside Drive E.
Seattle, Washington 98112

Dear Mrs. Hotson:

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Urban Horticulture, a note of thanks to you and to the members of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society for the \$10,000 check in support of our program. NOHS has been the leader in getting an academic program in horticulture at the University of Washington, and it is fitting that you should continue this support as we move towards new facilities and a new department. Please express my thanks to all members of the Society.

Sincerely,

H.B. Tukey, Jr.
Professor and Director

HBT:sed
cc: Dr. Beckmann

TOUR HOLLAND NEXT SUMMER WITH RICHARD VAN KLAVEREN

The College of Forest Resources and the Arboretum are sponsoring a tour of Holland next July. Mr. van Klaveren, tour leader, is a native of Holland who has worked and taught at the Arboretum as plant propagator for twenty years.

The tour will concentrate on gardens and nurseries in Holland; the itinerary will include Keukenhof, the Aalsmeer flower auction, the large nurseries and Arboriculture Research Station of Boskoop, the Arboretum landbouwhogeschool at Wageningen, and a trip over the German border to the famous *Rhododendron* garden at Bremen. The cities of Delft, The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam will be included, with excursions to major places of more general interest such as the Rijksmuseum, Deltaplan Zeeland (where land is reclaimed from the Zuider Zee) and the miniature city of Madurodam. Travel within Holland will be by chartered coach with driver and courier; the emphasis will be on day trips from two or three central points, since distances in Holland are short.

The tour will last approximately two weeks, and arrangements for travel to and from Europe will be designed in such a way that individuals can easily extend the trip to visit other countries after the conclusion of the tour.

If you would like to receive additional information about the tour, contact Ruth Jacobson at the College of Forest Resources Continuing Education office, 545-1373.



REPORT OF THE RHODODENDRON STUDY GROUP, 1980

Marjorie Baird

In June, the group greatly enjoyed touring the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Doleshy. We are very grateful for the generosity and hospitality of the creators of these two unique and fascinating gardens.

July 30 brought the annual propagating bee, which was again shared by members of Yarrow Garden Club and some of our Propagating Group members. We took cuttings of 35 species and hybrid rhododendrons and azaleas, plus 8 other ornamental shrubs.

On October 10, we attended the Fall Foliage Festival at the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Only one of ten new members invited joined us, which was a shame as the colors were beautiful and the Garden looked better than ever.



NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING LUNCHEON AND GARDEN TOUR

TACOMA - APRIL 17, 1981

Price: \$25.00 includes bus, wine, luncheon, at the Tacoma Golf and Country Club, and a tour of two outstanding gardens (and \$10 donation).

Meeting Place: 9 a.m. at the Washington Park Arboretum Office parking lot for bus pick-up.

Check to: Mrs. James R. Scott, NOHS Garden Tours
9103 Lake Washington Blvd. N.E.
Bellevue, Washington 98004

Reservations limited (no tickets sent);
No cancellations after April 10, 1981

George Weyerhaeuser Garden - A charming family-type home and garden complete with Japanese garden, greenhouse and swimming pool.

"Lakewold" Corydon Wagner - Selected by Town and Country as one of America's most glorious private gardens (June, 1980). One of the oldest gardens in the Lakes District, under the guidance of Thomas Church, Lakewold has lately been redesigned and refreshed. Formal and informal areas, an Elizabethan knot garden, a rock garden with paths winding through the woods and down to the shore of the lake, a collection of exotic species of trees, plus many other facets, all blend in to a feeling of beauty and tranquility.

Luncheon at the Tacoma Golf and Country Club.

N.O.H.S. NOTES

SPRING 1981

Supplement to Horticulture Northwest

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends:

In this, my farewell letter, I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving you as your President. As we all know, this has been an eventful, energetic time in the life of this rapidly growing organization. We have shared fun experiences - and the challenge of achieving NOHS goals. The rewarding associations I have found are my personal treasure.

\$10,000 was given by NOHS to the University of Washington in January. This is the first of five annual payments toward our commitment to the University to further Horticultural Education and Arboreta programs.

Our 1981 lecture series is well on its way. The January programs, in both Tacoma and Seattle, featuring Dr. Robert Ticknor and Dr. Angelo Pellegrini, were highly interesting and entertaining. A panel of soil experts, William Shannon, Dr. Robert Sasoski, and Dr. Charles Pfeiffer, spoke at the February lecture in Seattle. Talks and demonstrations by Chico Narro, the ever-popular expert on pruning, was scheduled for February in Tacoma, and March 26th in Seattle.

Coming on April 23rd will be the NOHS Spring Exhibit at the Museum of History and Industry. Fifteen plant societies will be participating. THIS IS A MUST!

The spring garden tour will be of the garden of Mrs. Corydon Wagner, in Gravelly Lake, Tacoma, Washington, on April 17th.

Classes in Botanical Drawing have been established with Sally Dickman as instructor. Call Sally or Mareen Kruckeberg for information.

The Annual meeting and dinner will be Thursday, April 30, 1981, at the Broadmoor Golf Club. We will be honoring our Founders at this celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society.

Your Board of Directors has served an extended term from October, 1979, to April, 30, 1981, to facilitate the change in the Annual Meeting. You can be proud of the Board, committee chairmen and the many members who share their time, knowledge, and experience. My particular gratitude goes to the officers and chairmen who have given that "extra effort" to make possible the success of our endeavors.

Jo Hotson, President

COMING GARDEN EVENTS

Spring 1981

March 17, Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

"Fuchsia Culture" presented by the Seattle Begonia Society. Bethany Green Lake Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Avenue N.E. Public invited. No charge.

March 21, Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Horticultural Therapy Workshop, Children's Orthopedic Hospital. Hands-on projects, tour of Hospital gardens built for handicapped, lectures on Horticulture and Therapy, movie on successful HT project. No charge; registration required. Call Joan Burlingame, 634-5026.

March 21, Saturday
Noon - 6:00 p.m.
March 22, Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Early Rhododendron Competition, Olympic Room, Seattle Center. Public invited. No charge.

March 22, Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden at Weyerhaeuser Campus. Open to the public. For further information call 927-6960, or 838-4646.

March 24, Tuesday
10:00 a.m.

"Magnolias and Flowering Cherries" lecture by Brian Mulligan. Tour of Arboretum follows. Arboretum Guide Training Program. Montlake Community Center, 16th E. and E. Calhoun. Public invited. No charge.

March 26, Thursday
7:30 p.m.

"Control Your Garden by Pruning" lecture and demonstration by Chico Narro. NOHS Lecture Series. Museum of History and Industry. Public invited. \$2.50 charge.

March 26, Thursday
11:00 a.m.

Seattle Chrysanthemum Society Culture Session and Plant Sale. Royal Fork Restaurant, 2205 N. 45th, Seattle. Public welcome. No charge.

March 28, Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
March 29, Sunday
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Horticulture Exhibit. Mixed Flower Show with Educational Displays. Sponsored by Arboretum Foundation. Northgate Mall. Public invited. No charge.

April - Every Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden. Open to the public. Weyerhaeuser Campus. (See March 22 notes.)

April - Every Wednesday
from April 8 on.
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden open to the public. Weyerhaeuser Campus. (See March 22 notes.)

April - Every Weekend

Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens. Resort Road, Whidbey Island. Open to the public. May be a nominal charge.

April 14, Tuesday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00

Extra Explorers Walk of Washington Park Arboretum. See note at end of calendar.

April 15, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
April 16, Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Orthopedic Hospital Garden Sale. University Village.

April 18, Saturday
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 19, Sunday
Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Seattle African Violet Society Show. In addition to the displays, planting material will be offered for sale. Snoqualmie Room, Seattle Center. Public invited. No charge.

April 21, Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

"Fighting Plant Pests in Greenhouse and Homes" and "Species Begonias and Begonias in the Wild" presented by the Seattle Begonia Society. Bethany Green Lake Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Avenue N.E. Public invited. No charge.

April 23, Thursday
10:30 a.m.

NOHS Lecture Series. "What Plants Do For People." Exhibits and demonstrations by 14 plant societies and plant groups. Museum of History and Industry. Admission: \$2.50.

April 25, Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
April 26, Sunday
12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Orthopedic Garden Sale, South Seattle Parkway Plaza.

May 3, Sunday
May 10, Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden open to the public. Weyerhaeuser Campus. (See notes March 22.)

May 6, Wednesday
May 13, Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden open to the public. (See notes March 22.)

May 6, Wednesday
1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
May 7, Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Plant Sale. Arboretum Foundation. Arboretum Office, Parking Lot.

May 10, Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 15, Friday
1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
May 16, Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
May 17, Sunday
Noon - 5 p.m.

May 16, Saturday
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
May 17, Sunday
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

May 16, Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
May 17, Sunday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May 19, Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

May - Every Weekend

June 13, Saturday
June 14, Sunday

June 14, Sunday
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

June 19, Friday
10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
June 20, Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

June 19, Friday
June 20, Saturday

Note: Explorers Walks of Washington Park Arboretum. Every fourth Wednesday of the month,
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Meet at Arboretum Office Parking Lot.

Gesneriad Society Display sponsored by The
Friends of the Conservatory, at the Conservatory,
Volunteer Park. Public invited. No charge.

Rhododendron Show, Bellevue Square. Public
invited. No charge.

North Kitsap Chapter of American Rhododendron
Society Truss Show. Captain Charles Wilkes
Elementary School, Day Road East, Bainbridge
Island.

Puget Sound Bonsai Society Show. Scottish
Rite Temple, 1155 Broadway East. Public in-
vited. Admission: \$1.25.

"Growing Wax Begonias" and mini show on "My
Favorite Begonia and Other Shade Loving Plants"
at meeting of the Seattle Begonia Society.
Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Avenue
N.E. Public welcome. No charge.

Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens, Resort Road,
Whidbey Island. Open to the public. May be a
nominal charge.

Seattle Rose Show. Crossroads Mall, Bellevue.
In addition to the displays, many miniature
roses will be for sale. Public invited. No
charge.

Seattle Begonia Society Meeting. "Hanging
Basket Begonias" and "Geraniums in the House
and Garden." Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400
Woodlawn Avenue N.E. Public invited. No
charge.

Ninth Annual NOHS Fern Sale. Over 90 varieties
of ferns offered. Experts on hand for advice.
Crossroads Mall.

Puget Sound Gesneriad Society Show. Crossroads
Mall. Public invited. No charge.



Membership Application NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Policy:

To give financial support to the University of Washington Arboreta
Program and to other horticultural education endeavors.

Membership activities encompass:

Lecture Series, Study Groups, Annual Fern and Plant Sales, Tours
of gardens of horticultural interest, Horticultural Journal.

(Please fill in form as you wish information to appear in yearbook.)

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss ☐

Name _____ (First Name) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

New Member (date) _____ or Renewal (date) _____

(Membership renewals will come due January, May and September,
whichever month is closest to date of Membership Application.)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
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(Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

MAILING ADDRESS:
University of Washington Arboreta XD10
Seattle, Washington 98195

TELEPHONE: 543-8800

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: (Please check one)

- ☐ Life \$500.00
☐ Supporting \$50.00 to \$100.00
☐ Contributing \$25.00 to \$50.00
☐ Active (Individual) \$15.00
☐ Group or Family \$20.00
☐ Nursery (Member Listing) \$20.00

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SAGE--PAST AND PRESENT

Brian Halliwell, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England

Salvia officinalis, a fragrant evergreen sub-shrub of southern Europe, was known and cultivated by all ancient Mediterranean civilizations. In the first century, A.D., Theophrastus, a Greek physician, was to write his book, Materia Medica, on which physicians for the next one-and-a-half millenia were to use as a guide for herbal remedies. A translation into English was made in 1665 by John Goodyer, and about sage is written, "It dyeth ye hair black also, and it is a wound herb, a blood stauncher, and a cleanser of ye wilde ulcers." In about 840 A.D., a monk from St. Galle, in what is now Switzerland, Walafrid Strabo, produced a book of poems called, Hortulus (in English, The Little Garden), which was about garden plants; about sage was written,

"There in the front glows sage, sweetly scented.
It deserves to grow green forever, enjoying perpetual youth
For it is rich in virtue and good to mix a potion
Of proven use for many a human ailment.
But within itself is the germ of civil war
For unless the new growth is cut away, it turns
Savagely upon its parent and chokes to death
The old stems in bitter jealousy."

(The last 4 lines are a reference to the need for regular pruning.)

By the 16th century, it had become a universal panacea. John Gerard, in his Herball of 1597, mentions many ailments for which sage affected a cure; a few of these are: "Sage is singularly good for the head and braine, it quickeneth the senses and memory, strengthenneth the sinnews, restoreth health to those that hath the palsie upon a moist cause, taketh away shaking and trembling members and being put unto the nostrils, it draweth thin phlegme out of the head. It is likewise commended against the spitting of blood, the cough and paines of the side and the biting of serpents and there are many more." Yes! Many, many more.

John Parkinson in Paradisus in Sole of 1629 repeats all the cures listed by Gerard but in addition gives some of the culinary uses for sage: "The kitchen use is either to boyle it with a calves head and being minced to be put with the braines, vinegar and pepper and to serve an ordinary sauce thereunto; or beaten and juiced rather than minced as manie doe, is put to a roasted pigs braines with currans for sauce therewith. It is in small quantity in regard to the strong taste of veale when they are forced or stuffed therewith and roasted which they call ollives." Sage ale, in which leaves were infused in beer or ale to extract curative properties, was advocated to improve health in men whilst sage tea, in which leaves dried or fresh were infused in hot water, seems to have been recommended for ladies.

Amongst Parkinson's quotation is "Sage is used of many in the moneth of May feeding with butter and parsley and is held of most to induce healthe of mans body." Many herbals of the period emphasized that sage was most efficacious when taken in May, no doubt because this month before flowers are



Salvia Officinalis

SALLY HALL HARRIS

produced is when the leaves contain the highest content of aromatic oils. An old Arabian proverb makes the same point:

"He what would live for Aye
Must eat Sage in May."

In similar vein is a cynical remark made by John Evelyn, the famous 17th century diarist, "Tis a plant indeed with so many and wonderful properties that the evidence of it, is said to render man immortal."

At this period, there were three main kinds of sage grown: the green or great sage, red sage and the lesser sage. Red was considered better than green, but the lesser was said to be superior to all others. Although sage was at this time grown for utilitarian purposes, its ornamental value was not overlooked. John Rea in Flora, Pomana and Ceres, first published in 1665, says, "Sage is of many sorts but those fitteth for this place (the flower garden) are the variegated great sage, the one marked with white, the other with yellow and the small sweet sage; the variegated are common but the small more rare. There are several sorts of small sage but that here intended is a small tender plant of a musky scent far excelling all others." Philip Miller, in the first edition of his Gardeners Dictionary of 1731, makes no mention of the curative properties and mentions the ornamental kinds grown: common green, green with variegated leaf, red, red with variegated leaf and the lesser.

Today sage is probably the most widely grown of all herbs in the herb or vegetable garden. It is much used in force-meat for stuffing chicken and turkey and in rolled mutton. Use is made of it in the preparation of certain kinds of sausage and in Derbyshire, England, the cheese which takes its name from the county has sage added to it. Some people add fresh leaves to a salad or rub the bowl in which the salad is mixed with leaves of sage, and it is used also to flavor soups and sauces. Probably there are no uses today in medicine, although it was used for whitening teeth and for strengthening gums long after the introduction of toothpaste.

In a garden it needs to be positioned in full sun, in a well drained, not over rich soil, and its oil content seems to be enhanced by an application of lime. It is reasonably hardy and will survive in all but the coldest gardens. Winter wet causes more damage than dry cold, and in districts with damp winters, bushes can look bedraggled by spring. Although in mild districts sage can be long lived, it is best to treat it as a short-term crop replanting every three or four years. In the vegetable or herb garden it can be treated as an annual or biennial. Seed is sown in warmer gardens in August or September, with seedlings thinned to stand at 12 inches. Where winters are cold, sow in spring in April or a month earlier under glass and plant into final positions when the danger of frost has passed. Autumn-sown plants are harvested just before flowering commences, whilst those from spring sowing are gathered in September or October. When treated as perennials, cuttings are taken in July as new growth is beginning to firm and rooted in boxes or pots. These are kept under glass during winter and planted out in the following spring. Cuttings when used fresh can be taken in small quantities at any time but, if for drying, this should be done just before flowering commences in May.

Today sage is being increasingly grown as an ornamental plant and is taking its place in the flower garden where it can be used in summer or spring bedding, as a foliage plant in grey borders, as either foliage or flowering in herbaceous borders or island beds, or at the front of shrub borders. Sage in the flower garden is well suited to those areas where summers have low rainfall, and the soil is thin and/or dry, for such conditions bring out the best color of the leaves. Remember that even when grown as an ornamental, sage can still be used for culinary or medicinal purposes.

In the flower garden there are two groups of sage: one is where there are attractive flowers and the other is where the beauty is in the foliage. Flowers are produced in late spring or early summer in terminal spikes which are mostly of a pale purplish blue. There is a considerable color range of shades between blue and red. Nearest to a pure light blue is 'Grandiflora', with the individual flowers, as might be expected from the name, being larger than the type. I have never seen the cv 'Rubriflora', which is described as having flowers which are a full red. I do, however, know 'Albiflora', whose freely produced flowers are a good, clean white. The display provided by the flowering kinds might be spectacular, but it rarely lasts for more than three weeks; that produced by the kinds with colored leaves is permanent. Within the kinds grown for their foliage, there is a considerable variation in the amounts of flowers each produces; some flower freely, others sparsely, and a few rarely or not at all. Of all the kinds grown in gardens today, it is doubtful if any are recent introductions. Probably all have been grown for at least three hundred years in English and other European gardens but under different names.

Just as there is variation in flower color, so there is in the ordinary green sage. This can vary from a bright green through all the many shades of grey. Equally there is variation in leaf shape: 'Latifolia' has leaves twice as long as broad, whereas in 'Salicifolia' the length is seven times as long as broad. 'Crispa' is distinct in having crimped or crinkled leaf margins whilst in 'Hillieri' there are red spots. In 'Aurea' all the leaf is yellow, and there seems to be more than one form which goes under this name. Some have more vigour than others; there are very pale forms varying but slightly from green, and yet there are others where the color is very pronounced. Certainly the color is more intense in full sunshine, although I have seen some kinds burn badly, especially when the soil was dry. There are many forms of the red sage: in intensity of color, some are brightest in summer whilst others are better in winter, and there is variation in the amount of flowering. 'Purpurascans' is considered to be the true name for red sage, but there are others: Purpurea, Rubra, Ribrifolia, Nigra, and Nigrescens. It may be that each name should refer to a particular clone. From time to time the red sage sports variegated shoots, most often in the form of uneven blotching which is unstable and reverts back to type no matter how frequently reverted shoots are removed. Of the green sage, there is mention of a variegated type with a white margin which is probably that mentioned by John Rea and Philip Miller but, although I have long searched for it, I have yet to find it. In 'Tricolor', which has a white margin, there is a pink overlay, and this cv keeps its color throughout the year. It is, in my experience, the least hardy of all forms of sage and can never be relied on to survive a winter. When it does survive, it looks scraggy and untidy. Flowering is sparse, and pruning is necessary to keep bushes tidy. This cv has been in cultivation for at

least 400 years and is the "Painted Sage" of the old herbalists. A green sage with a yellow margin, mentioned by Rea, is what today we call 'Icterina'. To my mind this is the best of all colored leaf forms, for it is compact, hardy, scarcely flowers and keeps its color at all times.

Pruning is an essential operation for sage to keep it tidy and productive. In the vegetable garden, whether treated as an annual or biennial, it is, or ought to be, cut over regularly even when not used in kitchen or for drying. This pruning is equally important in the flower garden. Those which bloom should be pruned immediately after flowering when all shoots which have flowered should be cut back to where new growth is beginning. Just as the flowering kinds need pruning, so do the foliage kinds. In those which do bloom, prune as mentioned, immediately after flowering, whilst those which do not flower should be trimmed in spring as new growth is about to commence.

No mention has yet been made of the lesser or smaller sage so esteemed by the old herbalists. It would seem that this is the sub species 'Minor' of *Salvia officinalis*. Today this plant is scarcely known. I find it difficult to imagine why a plant once so highly prized is no longer grown. Even if the preference for certain flavors change, with this resurgence of interest in herbs when all the old kinds are being sought for reintroduction, why has this one been overlooked? All the old herbalists mention that it was tender, but I cannot believe that this is the reason for its neglect. Other herbs are tender, and if there was doubt as to whether it would survive a winter, plants would be kept under protection until there were no more frosts. After a great deal of searching, I did locate a source of seed from which plants were raised and which I have had for a number of years. Visually it is very much like a smaller edition of the common sage, in size of bush, leaf dimensions and length of flower spike. Leaves are greyer than the ordinary sage, and there is a completely different fragrance from crushed leaves, for this is milder and more musky. Although the old herbalists described it as tender, I have not found it exceptionally so; in fact, it has survived many winters and in spring looks much better than the cv 'Tricolor.' According to the old herbalists, there were some different forms of the lesser sage, but the only one I have been able to locate was one called 'Rubriflora.' When seedlings eventually flowered, the color was no more than a pinkish mauve. It never set any seed, and this plant definitely was tender, for one year I lost it and I have it no more; to my mind no great loss.

I continue to search for cvs of sage which I do not have, but so many that I obtain under names unknown to me, on receipt turn out to be plants I grow under other names.



FENDLERIA RUPICOLA

Sally Walker, Tucson, Arizona

One of the most handsome shrubs of the Southwest is *Fendleria rupicola*. This may reach nine feet in the wild, but in cultivation might benefit from pruning to reduce the height and rather straggly appearance. It is native from southern Colorado to western Texas, Arizona and northern Mexico. In southern Arizona it is found in the mountains from 4,000 to 7,000 feet and should be hardy in cultivation. It flowers in May and one to three blossoms are produced on short branches. The petals are white, sometimes with a pink central stripe and have a pinkish-purple color on the reverse side. They are three quarters of an inch long and about one quarter inch wide near the tips with wavy edges and narrow abruptly into a thin claw displaying the four pubescent sepals between. In the center of the flower are eight stamens with broad filaments.

The leaves are opposite or clustered on the grey-ribbed stems. They are almost sessile and range from half to one-and-a-half inches in length, with one to three veins, and are mucronate and slightly inrolled. Both sides of the leaves have hairs, particularly the underside, which is whitish.



Fendleria rupicola
Sally Walker

DUES INCREASE

The Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society found it necessary to raise the membership dues effective January 1, 1981, in order to meet the ever-increasing costs. Each individual member is vital to on-going programs of the society and your continued support of NOHS activities is appreciated.

Membership in the NOHS entitles you to:

- Our quarterly journal, Horticulture Northwest
- All mailings, brochures and flyers
- Invitations to NOHS functions
- Workshops (propagation and Botanical Drawing)
- Study groups
- Seed exchange
- Field trips
- Garden tours
- NOHS lecture series (open to public - fee charged to help meet expenses)
- Participation in fund-raising activities

NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1980

Balance at January 1, 1980		\$ 49,544.36
Cash receipts		
Plant sales	\$ 22,676.93	
Contributions	19,830.00	
Membership dues	7,547.50	
Program, hospitality and tour receipts	5,854.00	
Interest	3,961.39	
Lectures	1,159.05	
Journal ads	137.50	
Book sales	4.00	
		<u>61,170.37</u>
		\$110,714.73
Cash disbursements		
Plants	\$ 12,695.81	
Journal expense	6,417.81	
Program, hospitality and tour expense	3,876.13	
Lectures expense	2,580.46	
Printing and steno	1,676.80	
Grants	1,350.00	
Yearbook expense	851.62	
Plant sale expense	710.23	
Membership expense	672.16	
Rent	525.00	
Subscriptions and membership	525.00	
U of W Arboretum Memorial	450.00	
Accounting	325.00	
Insurance	255.20	
Administrative and office expense	100.37	
Licenses and permits	76.00	
Educational fund expense	44.93	
Public relations and publicity	41.61	
Safe deposit box rent	25.00	
Bank charges (commercial paper)	7.50	
		<u>33,206.63</u>
Balance at December 31, 1980		<u>\$ 77,508.10</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES
DECEMBER 31, 1980

ASSETS

Cash in checking and savings accounts at Seattle Trust & Savings Bank	\$ 14,488.61
Cash in savings accounts at Washington Mutual Savings Bank	9,302.11
U.S. Treasury bills, due January 29, 1981, face amount \$40,000.00	38,778.20
Seattle Trust & Savings Bank T bill, 8.347%, dated July 3, 1980, due January 2, 1981	14,714.18
Film on pruning	<u>225.00</u>
	<u>\$ 77,508.10</u>

FUND BALANCES

Fund balances	
General fund	\$ 48,091.73
Educational fund	20,977.72
Lectures fund	2,530.33
Scholarship - Grants - Memorials fund	873.05
Ericaceae fund	<u>5,035.27</u>
	<u>\$ 77,508.10</u>

Tidbits

by Ladybug



Plan to visit the Rhododendron Species Foundation Gardens this spring. Many of the difficult to find *Rhododendron* species are available for sale at the gardens; *R. arboreum*, *R. strigillosum*, *R. keiskei* 'Yaku Fairy', *R. ferrugineum* var *album*, *R. roxieanum*, *R. tsariense* and *R. yakusimanum* Exbury form, to name but a few.



Brian Halliwell writes 1979 -- *Fendlera rupicola* flowered for the first time this year but set no fruits. About cultivation, there is so little to say. Seed was sown, seedlings potted; it was planted out and grew away very slowly.



As you may know, I have been engaged in ethnological research into the structure and function of traditional alpine economy in a high mountain community in the French Alps. For perhaps fifteen hundred years, this was a predominantly closed population which had little contact with markets and the outside world. These people produced through a variety of economic activities centered around agriculture and pastoralism all their material needs. This is what ethnologists call a "self-subsistence" economy. Although the "agro-pastoral" aspect of production dominated, these people were engaged in gathering and hunting, gardening, bee-keeping, fruit tree horticulture and viticulture, among other things. What is extremely interesting is that quite high population densities were attained in a difficult high altitude setting, without noticeable environmental degradation. It is plausible to assume then, that over hundreds of years of adaptation these people achieved long-term stability with their natural milieu, something that western society is far from achieving.

Very little is known of the dynamics of such a system. Tremendous amounts of local knowledge and expertise were necessary to make such a system function without destroying or degrading the habitat. A thorough understanding of the details of such systems is becoming imperative as the gap between the needs of western production and environmental stability widens. My job has been to learn as much as possible about the relation between an alpine community engaged in "self-subsistence" economy and the plants, animals and minerals upon which it depended so intimately.

Unfortunately, traditional alpine economy is rapidly disintegrating, and in a few years research of this nature may be impossible. Please accept my thanks again for supporting this research, and do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Brien A. Meilleur



Watch For:

Root weevils - watch for weevil damage as early as April. Some overwintering root weevils will emerge and must feed for a period before they are able to lay eggs. Early control with acephate (=Orthene) or by hand picking can significantly reduce populations. Spray only once each month (the pesticide is absorbed and held in the leaf edges) to reduce chances of killing bees and black ground beetles (EM 4539).

Dogwood anthracnose - begin spraying with the fungicide (Benomyl = Benlate, Dithane M22, or FORE) as soon as the buds break (begin to open) and continue at 10-14 day intervals until dry weather. Also prune out twigs with dead leaves hanging on if possible (EM 4421).

Brown rot - our worst disease on cherries, flowering almonds, apricot and other stone fruits. You may remember seeing trees with masses of brown collapsed (wilted) tan leaves in spring. This fungus invades blossoms and moves back into twigs, then to branches during wet spring weather. Symptoms include sudden collapse and browning of leaves (on weeping forms) or orange-brown flagging at tips (upright forms); clear amber gumming and fuzzy, brown spores along flower and leaf petioles (if it has been moist). Protective fungicides must be applied to protect expanding buds (EM 3046).

*EM or EB numbers refer to bulletins available from Cooperative Extension offices in each county. Single copies are free.

Sharon J. Collman



Homeowner Tree and Shrub Care: A Day of Learning and Doing

May 2, 1981 (Saturday)
8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$3.00

Cooperative Extension is pleased to sponsor this event for homeowners. Topics include, Once Around the Yard--a look at typical situations that lead a plant to trouble; Plant Care Techniques--such as watering, pruning, transplanting; and Where You Can Go for Help--an overview of educational, consulting, tree service and nursery resources. Two afternoon workshops include demonstration of proper pruning and a panel of experts to ask questions and learn about plant problems. Each will be repeated.

Pre-registration is recommended to assure a place. Contact your county agent, Sharon Collman (King County), 344-4162, or Rick Reisinger (Snohomish County), 259-9422, for details.

Sharon J. Collman



NOHS 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Annual Dinner Meeting

April 30, 1981

Broadmoor Golf Club

Speaker to be announced

Details to be mailed to members

Chairman: Mrs. William L. Gorman



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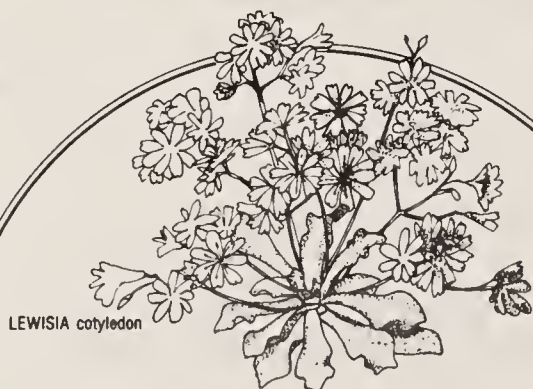
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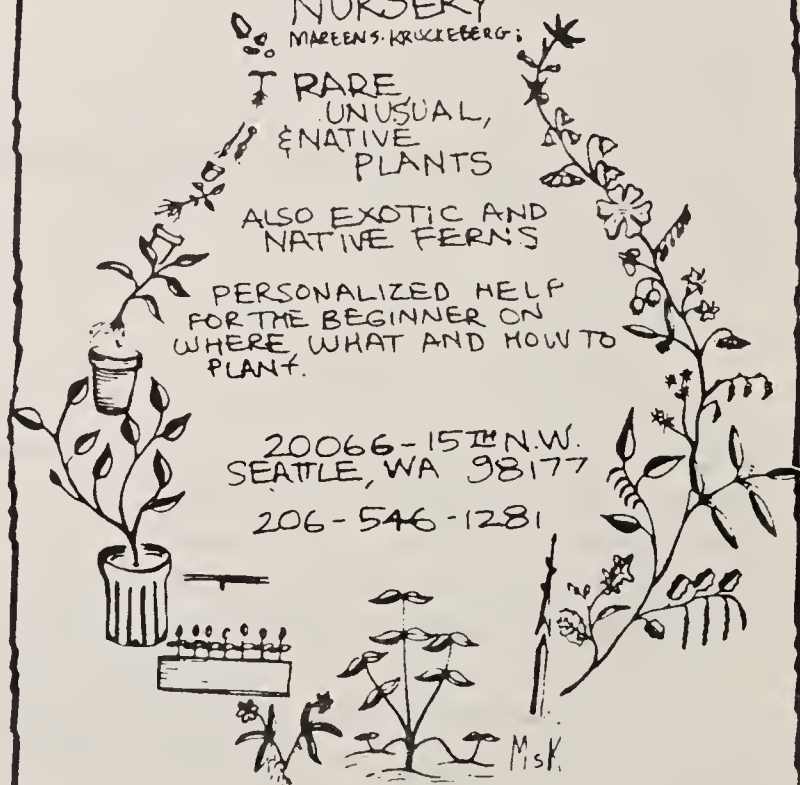
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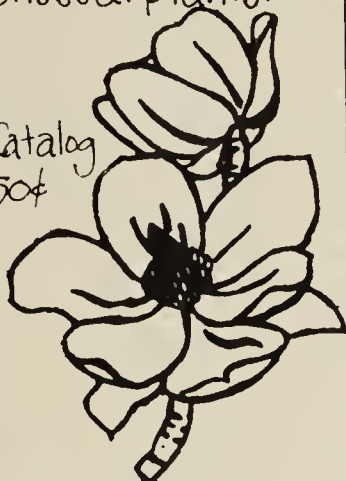
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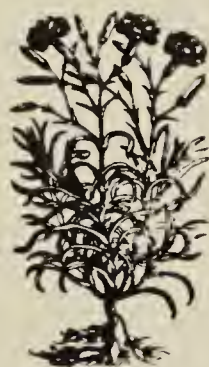
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